

tags affixed pursuant to § 300.26 of this title or § 635.5(b)(2)(ii); or

(2) Validation by non-government officials authorized to do so by NMFS under paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Authorization for non-government validation.* An institution or association seeking authorization to validate BSDs accompanying exports from the United States must apply in writing to the Director for such authorization. The application must indicate the procedures to be used for verification of information to be validated, list the names, addresses, and telephone/fax numbers of individuals to perform validation, and provide an example of the stamp or seal to be applied to the BSD. NMFS, upon finding the institution or association capable of verifying the information required on the BSD, will issue, within 30 days, a letter specifying the duration of effectiveness and conditions of authority to validate BSDs accompanying exports from the United States. The effectiveness of such authorization will be delayed as necessary for NMFS to notify the ICCAT Secretariat of non-government institutions and associations authorized to validate BSDs.

**§ 635.45 Import restrictions for Belize, Honduras, and Panama.**

All shipments of BFT or BFT products in any form harvested by a vessel of Belize, Honduras, or Panama will be denied entry into the United States.

**§ 635.46 Import restrictions on swordfish.**

(a) *General.* To facilitate enforcement of domestic regulations, a swordfish, or part thereof, less than the minimum size specified at § 635.20(e) may not be imported, or attempted to be imported, into the United States unless it is accompanied by the swordfish certificate of eligibility as specified in paragraph (b) of this section attesting either that the swordfish was harvested from an ocean area other than the Atlantic Ocean or that the fish part was derived from a swordfish, harvested from the Atlantic Ocean, that weighed at least 33 lb (15 kg) dw at harvest.

(b) *Swordfish COE.* (1) A shipment of swordfish in any form offered for import into the United States, directly or

indirectly, from any country is admissible only if accompanied by a swordfish COE. A swordfish COE is required for swordfish identified by any item number from the Harmonized Tariff Schedule including but not limited to the following:

(i) Fresh or chilled swordfish steaks, No. 0302.69.20.41.

(ii) Fresh or chilled swordfish, excluding steaks, No. 0302.69.20.49.

(iii) Frozen swordfish steaks, No. 0302.79.20.41.

(iv) Frozen swordfish, excluding fillets, steaks and other fish meat, No. 0302.79.20.49.

(v) Frozen swordfish, fillets, No. 0304.20.60.92.

(2) The swordfish COE required under this section must indicate, in English, the flag state of the harvesting vessel, the ocean area of harvest and, if the shipment contains swordfish or parts thereof less than the minimum size specified at § 635.20(e), the reason such swordfish is eligible for entry, as specified in paragraph (a) of this section. The swordfish COE shall be attached to the invoice accompanying the swordfish shipment from the point of original export up to and including the point of first transaction in the United States.

(3) The swordfish COE required under this section must include, in English, the date, the name, the title of the governmental official or other authorized person, and the name of the authorizing government agency of the country exporting the swordfish to the United States. The swordfish COE must be signed and dated by that governmental official or authorized person with an official government seal affixed, thus validating the information on the COE. (4) A swordfish COE may refer to swordfish taken from only one ocean area of harvest (i.e., Atlantic, Pacific, Indian) and by vessels under the jurisdiction of only one nation. If a shipment contains swordfish taken from more than one ocean area, or swordfish harvested by several vessels from different flag states, a separate swordfish COE must accompany the shipment for each ocean area of harvest and for each flag nation of the harvesting vessels.

(5) A model swordfish COE can be obtained by contacting the Division Chief. An equivalent form may be used provided it contains all the information required under this section.

(6) The importer must write the Customs Form 7501 entry number on each swordfish COE and attach to the dealer report form all swordfish COEs from shipments that are recorded on the bi-weekly dealer report form.

**§ 635.47 Ports of entry.**

NMFS shall monitor the importation of BFT and swordfish into the United States. If NMFS determines that the diversity of handling practices at certain ports at which BFT or swordfish is being imported into the United States allows for circumvention of the BSD or swordfish COE requirement, NMFS may designate, after consultation with the U.S. Customs Service, those ports at which Pacific or Atlantic bluefin tuna or swordfish from any source may be imported into the United States. NMFS shall announce through filing with the Office of the Federal Register for publication the names of ports so designated and the effective dates of entry restrictions.

**Subpart E—International Port Inspection**

**§ 635.50 Basis and purpose.**

The regulations in this subpart implement the ICCAT port inspection scheme. The text of the ICCAT port inspection scheme may be obtained from NMFS.

**§ 635.51 Authorized officer.**

For the purposes of this subpart, an authorized officer is a person appointed by an ICCAT contracting party to serve as an authorized inspector for ICCAT, and who possesses identification issued by the authorized officer's national government.

**§ 635.52 Vessels subject to inspection.**

(a) All U.S. fishing vessels or vessels carrying fish species subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of ICCAT, and their catch, gear, and relevant documents, including fishing logbooks and cargo manifests, are sub-

ject to inspection under this subpart to verify compliance with ICCAT measures by an authorized officer when landing or transshipping tuna or when making a port call at a port of any ICCAT contracting party.

(b) A vessel, or a vessel carrying fish species subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of ICCAT, that is registered by any of the ICCAT contracting parties, and the vessel's catch, gear, and relevant documents, including fishing logbooks and cargo manifests, are subject to inspection under this subpart to verify compliance with ICCAT measures when landing or transshipping regulated species or when making a port call in the United States.

(c) The master of a vessel, or a vessel carrying fish species subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of ICCAT, must cooperate with an authorized officer during the conduct of an inspection in national and foreign ports. Inspections will be carried out so that the vessel suffers minimum interference and inconvenience, and so that degradation of the quality of catch is avoided.

**§ 635.53 Reports.**

(a) Apparent violations shall be reported by the authorized officer on a standardized ICCAT form or form produced by the national government which collects the same quality of information. The authorized officer must sign the form in the presence of the master of the vessel, who is entitled to add or have added to the report any observations, and to add his own signature. The authorized officer should note in the vessel's log that the inspection has been made.

(b) Copies of the report form must be sent to the flag state of the vessel and to the ICCAT Secretariat within 10 days. Flag states will consider and act on reports of apparent violations by foreign inspectors on a similar basis as the reports of their national inspectors in accordance with their national legislation. The vessel's flag state will notify ICCAT of actions taken to address the violation.